Area expansion programme for palm plantation in Andhra Pradesh

3285. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether as against the annual requirement of 11 million metric tonnes of edible oil, India imports 4.2 million metric tonnes by spending around Rs. 10.000 crores;

(b) whether Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of palm oil in the country with coverage of 32,142 hectares in Tenth Plan and already covering an area of 29,125 hectares in the first two years of the Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh has prepared action plan for 2009-10 to cover 30,000 hectares under Area Expansion Programme and sent the same to his Ministry for assistance of Rs. 51.38 crores; and

(d) if so, the reasons for restricting the assistance to Rs. 12 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The details of the availability of edible oils (from domestic and import sources) and the quantity and value of imported edible oils during the last two years is as follows:

(Quantity in million tons)

Year	*Total availability of edible oils from domestic and imported sources (Nov. to Oct.)	**Import of edible oils Quantity (April-March)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2007-08	14.26	4.90	10301.09
2008-09	16.78	6.72	15837.46

Source: *Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils & Fats and Solvent Extractions' Association of India.

**DGCI&S, Kolkata, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

(b) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of palm oil in the country with coverage of 32,171 hectares in Tenth Plan and has expanded the area by 29,123 hectares in the first two years of the Eleventh Plan.

(c) and (d) The State of Andhra Pradesh had proposed an Annual Action Plan of Oil Palm Development Programme under ISOPOM for an amount of Rs.51.38 crores with central share of Rs.38.53 crores during 2009-10. In view of the slow pace of expenditure in past years and unspent balance of Rs.7.54 crores available with the State as on 1.4.2009 under Oil Palm Development Programme, the Project Evaluation and Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the ISOPOM approved the Annual Action Plan for an amount of Rs.9.33 crores including Rs.7.00 crores as central share for the year 2009-10.